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in the control unit, wherein the time base settings increase non-linearly from a minimum setting to a maximum setting; and

a duty cycle dial coupled to the control unit, the duty cycle dial movable between a plurality of discrete duty cycle settings to set the percentage of actuation time of the load during each repeating cycle in the control unit.

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- 7. (Amended) The timer of claim 1 wherein the time base dial generates a digital signal defining thirty-two discrete time base settings.
- 9. (Amended)A timer for controlling the activation of a load during repeating cycles, the timer including:

a time base dial movable between a plurality of discrete time base settings to set the duration of the repeating cycle between a maximum setting and a minimum setting;

a duty cycle dial movable between a plurality of discrete duty cycle settings to set the percentage of actuation time of the load during each repeating cycle between a maximum setting and a minimum setting;

a control unit coupled to both the time base dial and the duty cycle dial, the control unit assigning a time base value corresponding to the duration of the repeating cycle for each time base setting and a duty cycle value corresponding to the percentage of actuation for each duty cycle setting, wherein the time base values increase non-linearly from the minimum time base setting to the maximum time base setting; and

a relay unit coupled between the control unit and the load, the relay unit being activated by the control unit to supply power to the load based upon the time base value and the duty cycle value corresponding to the current settings of the time base dial and the duty cycle dial.

15. (Amended)The timer of claim 9 wherein the time base dial generates a digital signal having thirty-two discrete time base settings.

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